



NEWBURY

Essex County

[NARRATIVE](#)

[GEOGRAPHY](#)

[GOVERNMENT](#)

[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)

[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)

[TRANSPORTATION](#)

[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)

[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Plantation of Newbury is located in the northeastern portion of Essex County. Pawtucket Indians hunted, fished and captured seasonal runs of smelt, alewives, shad, salmon and sea-run trout before settlers appeared. The shellfish were especially plentiful on Plum Island and were appreciated by the 100 people from the Wiltshire and Hampshire sections of England who established the first Colonial settlements. The settlers were younger and more socially prominent than settlers of other towns in the area, and were forced out of England by declining economic opportunities. In 1635, Reverend Thomas Parker from Wiltshire applied to the General Court for the liberty to settle and begin a plantation on land that is now Newbury. The proprietors made the land grants in such a way that 60% of the land was controlled by 10% of the population.

As the community grew, fishing became an important industry, as did small scale shipbuilding, weaving, tanning and shoemaking. Farmers dealt in cattle and sheep and by 1791 there were 3,000 head of cattle grazing on town lands. About the same time, the town set a pattern of diversified industry, producing woolen goods made by the first American-made wool carding machines as well as snuff, chaises and slate. Competition from England's woolen mills decreased the emphasis on woolens and led to greater cotton fabric production and the establishment of a cooperage, machine made nail factory and scythe mill.

In the late 18th and early 19th century, industry rivaled agricultural employment in the town. In 1844, James Steam Mills was established, in 1850 the railroads arrived in town and by 1845 45,000 pairs of shoes were made. After the Civil War, despite an abortive attempt to mine silver and gold in the town, much of the manufacturing initiative died as water power gave way to steam power. The economy of the town swung back to agriculture and by the end of the 19th century there was a big shift to dairying in Newbury. By 1905, instead of shoes, 450,000 gallons of milk were produced and poultry and eggs became a significant business.

Newbury hosts a number of New England's most important examples of Colonial architecture, one of which is the Tristram Coffin House, built in 1654. The Plum Island section of town is a residential area, much loved by its summer and year-round residents.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Newburyport and Salisbury on the north; West Newbury, Groveland, and Georgetown on the west; Rowley on the south, and the Atlantic Ocean on the east. Newbury is about 12 miles east of Haverhill; 28 miles north of Boston; about 72 miles south of Portland, Maine; and about 250 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 26.45 sq. miles

Land Area: 24.25 sq. miles

Population: 5,623

Density: 232 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Haverhill Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.7°F

Normal temperature in July.....72.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.4"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Newburyport East, Newburyport West, Georgetown, Ipswich

Regional Planning Agency

Merrimack Valley Region

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 465-9241

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1635

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	4,000		
Democrats	604	15.1	%
Republicans	704	17.6	%
Other parties	2	0.1	%
Unenrolled Voters	2,690	67.3	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Newbury town, Essex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	6,717	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	6,717	100.0
Male.....	3,254	48.4	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	61	0.9
Female.....	3,463	51.6	Mexican.....	11	0.2
Under 5 years.....	450	6.7	Puerto Rican.....	16	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	495	7.4	Cuban.....	7	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	582	8.7	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	27	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	412	6.1	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	6,656	99.1
20 to 24 years.....	168	2.5	White alone.....	6,553	97.6
25 to 34 years.....	671	10.0	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,347	20.1	Total population.....	6,717	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,242	18.5	In households.....	6,680	99.4
55 to 59 years.....	390	5.8	Householder.....	2,514	37.4
60 to 64 years.....	299	3.6	Spouse.....	1,547	23.0
65 to 74 years.....	411	6.1	Child.....	2,129	31.7
75 to 84 years.....	296	3.5	Own child under 18 years.....	1,674	24.9
85 years and over.....	74	1.1	Other relatives.....	250	3.7
Median age (years).....	39.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	95	1.4
18 years and over.....	4,897	72.9	Nonrelatives.....	240	3.6
Male.....	2,343	34.9	Unmarried partner.....	110	1.6
Female.....	2,554	38.0	In group quarters.....	37	0.6
21 years and over.....	4,744	70.6	Institutionalized population.....	37	0.6
62 years and over.....	843	12.6	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	721	10.7	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	301	4.5	Total households.....	2,514	100.0
Female.....	420	6.3	Family households (families).....	1,815	72.2
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	898	35.7
One race.....	6,688	99.6	Married-couple family.....	1,547	61.5
White.....	6,604	98.3	With own children under 18 years.....	766	30.5
Black or African American.....	25	0.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	187	7.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	9	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	98	3.9
Asian.....	30	0.4	Nonfamily households.....	699	27.8
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	569	22.6
Chinese.....	9	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	229	9.1
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	955	38.0
Japanese.....	9	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	549	21.8
Korean.....	11	0.2	Average household size.....	2.66	(X)
Vietnamese.....	1	-	Average family size.....	3.16	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-	Total housing units.....	2,816	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	1	-	Occupied housing units.....	2,514	89.3
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	302	10.7
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	202	7.2
Some other race.....	19	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	29	0.4	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.0	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	2,514	100.0
White.....	6,633	98.7	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,025	80.5
Black or African American.....	27	0.4	Renter-occupied housing units.....	489	19.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	27	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.82	(X)
Asian.....	34	0.5	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.96	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-			
Some other race.....	25	0.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The development of transportation resources in the Merrimack Valley Region, where Newbury is situated, was shaped by the history of the region as a major site of American industrial development in the nineteenth century. The area has exceptionally good highway and rail facilities linking the major cities and towns to each other and to the port, airport, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are Interstate Route 95 and U.S. Route 1, which both run from Maine to Florida.

Rail

There is no freight or passenger rail service in Newbury, but the network of intermodal facilities serving eastern Massachusetts is easily accessible.

Bus

Newbury is a member of the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) but does not receive services.

Other

The Newburyport-Plum Island Airport, a privately owned public-use facility, is easily accessible from Newbury. It has a 2,520'x 50' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Coffin House

14-16 High Street, Route 1A

(978) 463-2057

Spencer-Pierce-Little House

Little's Lane

(617-227-3956

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of ; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.